



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Beech House School

December 2019



School's details

School	Beech House School			
DfE number	354/6001			
Address	Beech House School 184 Manchester Road Rochdale Lancashire OL11 4JQ			
Telephone number	01706 646309			
Email address	info@beechhouseschool.co.uk			
Principal	Mr Kevin Sartain			
Proprietor	Mr Kevin Sartain			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	170			
	EYFS	42	Preparatory	37
	Seniors	91		
Date of visit	3 December 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Beech House School is a co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of two and sixteen. Founded prior to 1850, the school occupies four large Victorian houses close to Rochdale town centre. The school is divided into three sections: the senior school, for pupils between the ages of eleven and sixteen; the upper preparatory department, for pupils aged eight to eleven; and the lower preparatory department, for pupils up to the age of seven and including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is about half a mile away. The school has identified 27 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities, all of whom receive specialist help and four have an education, health and care plan. Also, 15 pupils have English as an additional language none of whom require additional support. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in May 2019.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the regulatory compliance inspection on 22 to 23 May 2019. The DfE also asked the visit to have an additional focus on the quality of teaching and the framework for pupil performance.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching); EYFS 1.3 to 1.6	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupil performance); EYFS 2.6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.5, 3.9 and 3.10	Met
Part 3, paragraph 15 (admission and attendance registers); EYFS 3.72	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); EYFS 3.9.	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3; EYFS 1.3-1.6]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.2 The observation of lessons, shows that teaching enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make appropriate progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught. It fosters in pupils the self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves. Teaching involves suitably planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time. Across the school, including in the EYFS, teaching shows an appropriate understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons. Teachers demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter being taught and utilise effectively classroom resources of suitable quality, quantity and range. A framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress. Teaching utilises effective strategies for managing behaviour and encourages pupils to act responsibly as was shown in inspection observations. Teaching does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs nor does it discriminate against pupils contrary to Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010.

Quality of education provided – framework for pupil performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4; EYFS 2.6]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard and the requirement.
- 2.4 A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place. Data collected across the school is used effectively to support pupils' learning.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4, 3.5, 3.9 and 3.10]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.5 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.6 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.7 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.8 Safeguarding is well managed, and procedures are regularly reviewed, including an annual review by the proprietor. Policy and procedures are reviewed effectively, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 (KCSIE) requirements. The school deals appropriately with any allegations and understands the role of effective liaison with the local children's safeguarding partnership. All members of staff, including those with designated responsibility for safeguarding, have appropriate levels of safeguarding training, attend regular update training and have a clear understanding of safeguarding and their responsibilities. The proprietor ensures that those with specific responsibility for safeguarding are given sufficient time and resources to carry out their roles effectively. Suitable arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff, which includes training in safeguarding. Scrutiny of records of most recent staff update training shows that there was a suitable focus on peer-

on-peer abuse and on the most recent update of KCSIE. An appropriate code of conduct is implemented effectively and understood by all staff and includes advice on e-safety and the appropriate use of social media. During interview, staff reported that they felt confident with the school's whistleblowing procedures and that they would feel happy to make any referral directly to children's social services should the need arise. Most pupils confirm that the school listens to any concerns should they arise and they feel that there is always someone that they can talk to from the staff body. The school has strengthened its safer recruitment practices by ensuring that checks relating to prohibition orders, disclosure and barring service barred list check and references are in place.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – admission and attendance registers [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 15; EYFS 3.72]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard and the requirement.
- 2.10 The admission register contains all the correct information, including the name and address of every person known to be a parent of the pupil (and an indication of the parent with whom the pupil normally resides and which parents hold parental responsibility). It also contains at least one telephone number at which the parent can be contacted in an emergency and the name of the destination school, where it is reasonably practicable for the school to ascertain this information. Should the school not be able to confirm a destination school then appropriate procedures are followed and the local authority is informed.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18(3)]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Pre-employment checks undertaken include determining that new staff are medically fit to carry out the role to which they have been appointed.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.13 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website. The school ensures that it provides all information reasonably required for inspection purposes.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. They have strengthened their oversight of the safer recruitment process and ensured that pupils are effectively safeguarded. Leadership and management ensure that all the information required for information is available and that the school's register of admission contains all the required information.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the principal, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor. They visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.